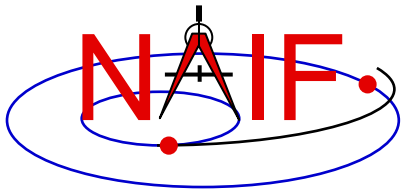


Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility

An Overview of SPICE

**NASA's Observation Geometry System
for Space Science Missions**

October 2022

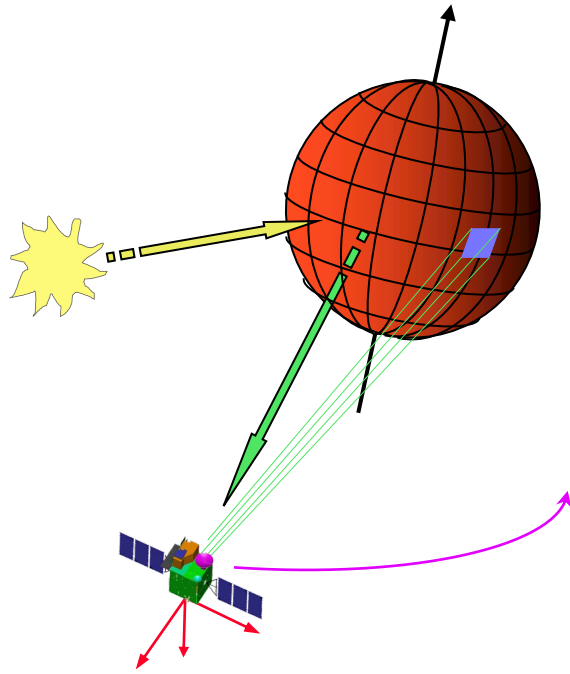


What Can One Do With SPICE?

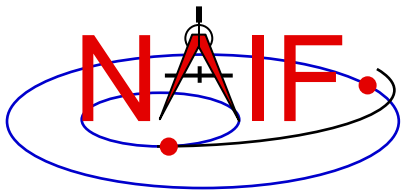
Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility

Compute many kinds of observation geometry parameters at selected times

Examples



- **Positions and velocities of planets, satellites, comets, asteroids and spacecraft**
- **Size, shape and orientation of planets, satellites, comets and asteroids**
- **Orientation of a spacecraft and its various moving structures**
- **Instrument field-of-view location on a planet's surface or atmosphere**

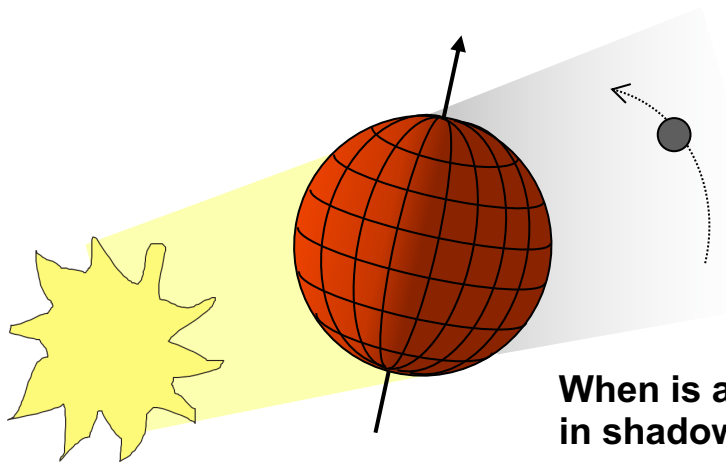


What One Can Do With SPICE

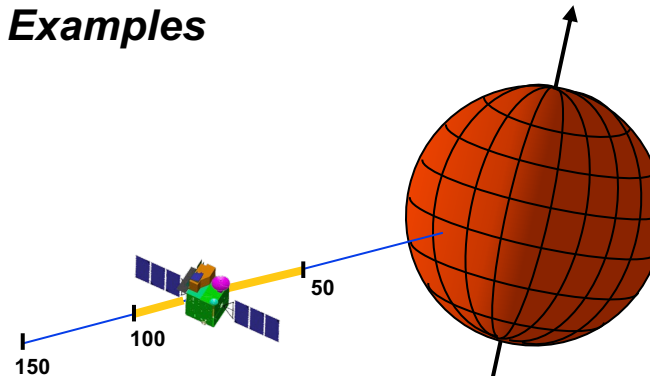
Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility

Find times when a specified “geometric event” occurs

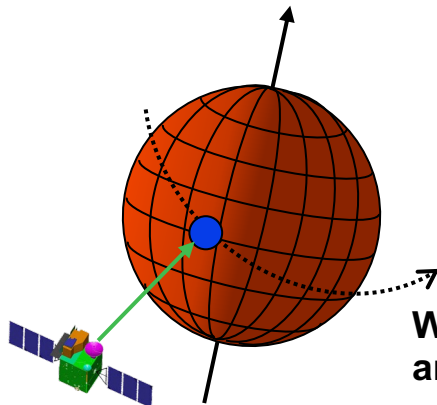
Examples



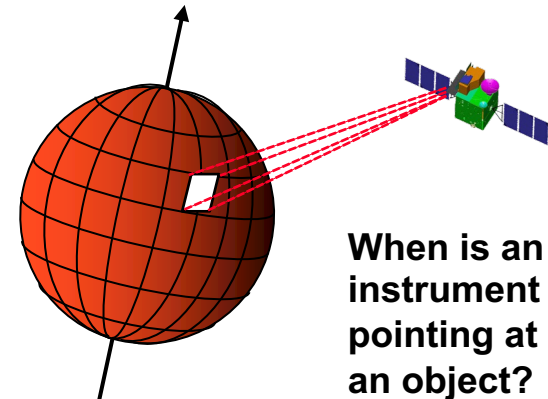
When is an object
in shadow (occultation) ?



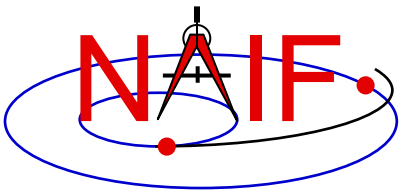
When is the spacecraft's
altitude within a given
range (say 50 to 100 km)?



When is an object in front of
another, as seen from a
spacecraft (transit)?



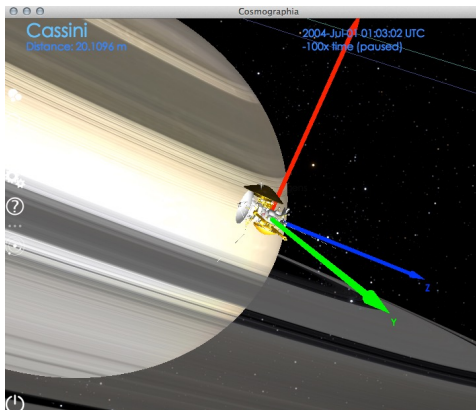
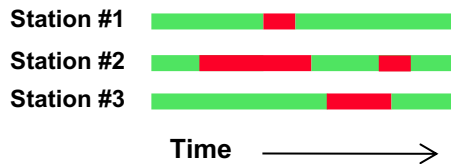
When is an
instrument
pointing at
an object?



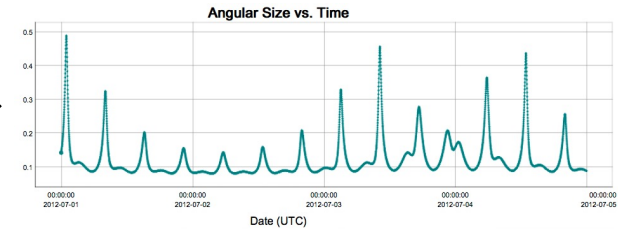
Examples of How SPICE Is Used

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility

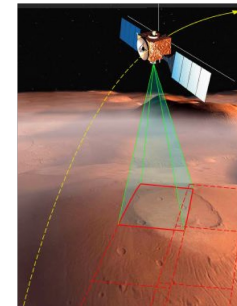
Spacecraft Visibility



Evaluation of a
planned trajectory

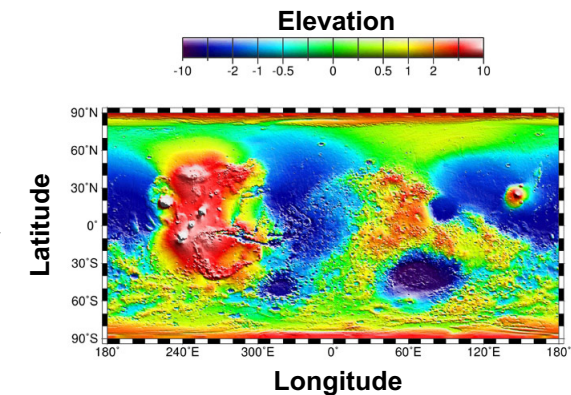


Angular size of Phobos
as seen from the MEX spacecraft

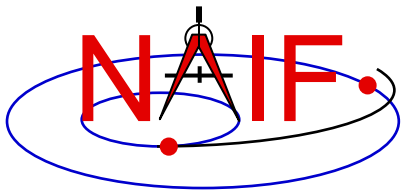


Planning an instrument
pointing profile

Observation geometry
visualization



Science data archiving
and analysis

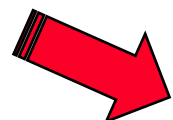


SPICE Pictorial Summary

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility

From assorted sources

Planet ephemeris
S/C trajectory
S/C orientation



SPICE
Utility
Programs



SPICE
Kernels
(Data)

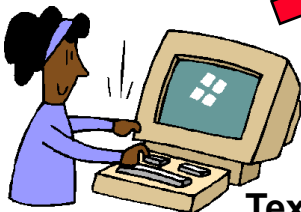
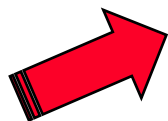


Your Program

Your
Modules

A Few
SPICE
Modules

Distances
Velocities
Altitudes
Latitudes
Longitudes
Lighting Angles
etc., etc.



Text editor

Spacecraft geometry
Instrument geometry
Planet size, shape, orientation

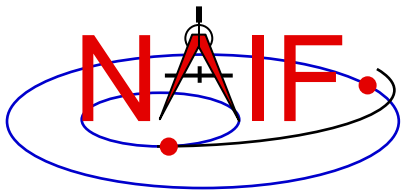
From assorted sources



Ancillary
Data Files

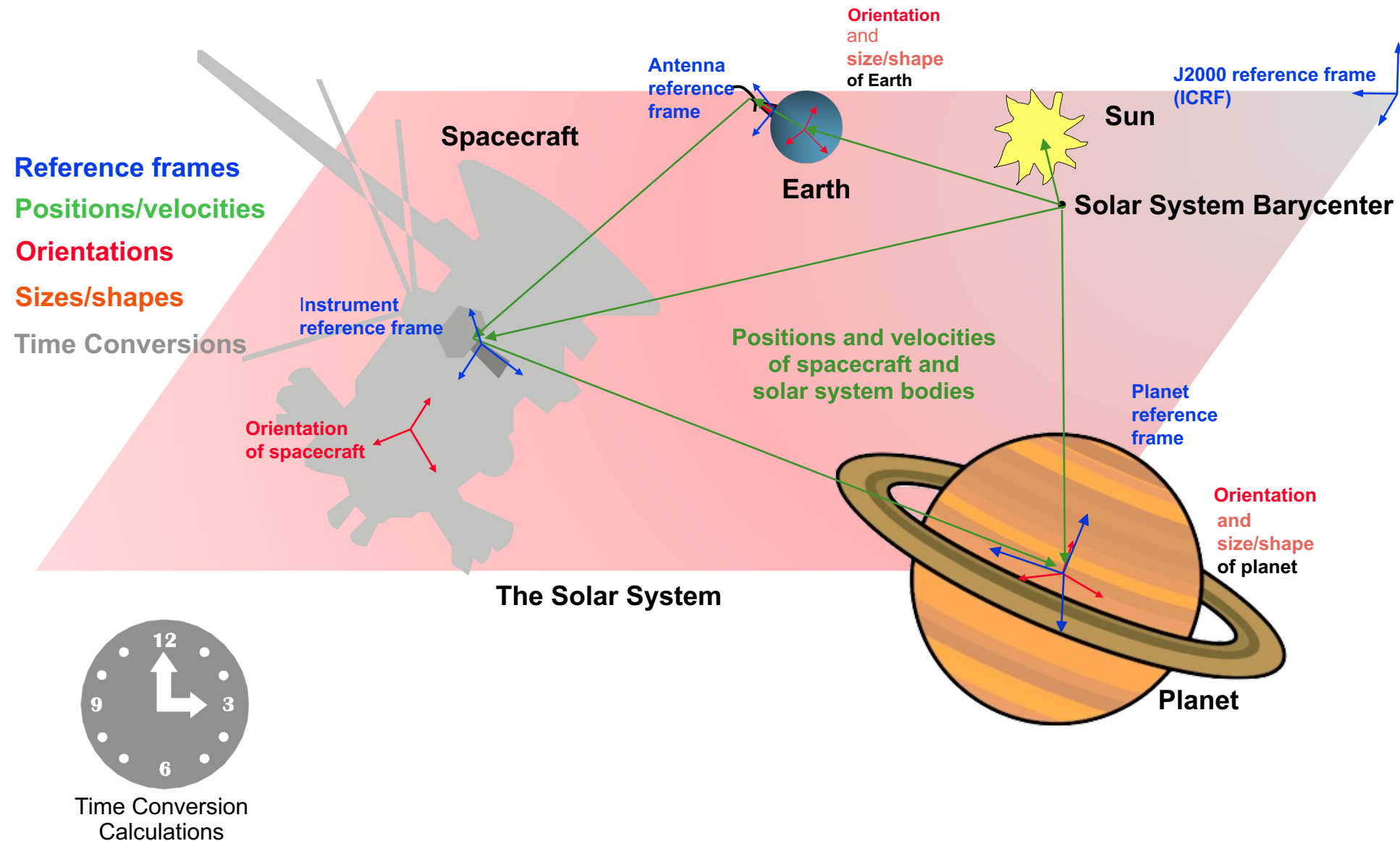


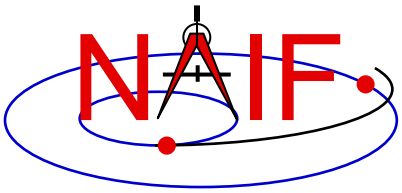
Observation
Geometry
Parameters
or
Time Intervals



What are “Ancillary Data?”

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility

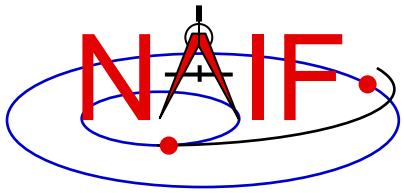




How Use Ancillary Data?

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility

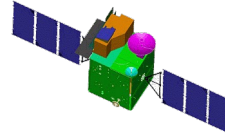
- **Ancillary data** are those that help scientists and engineers determine **observation geometry**, such as:
 - where the spacecraft was located
 - how the spacecraft and its instruments were oriented (pointed)
 - what was the location, size, shape and orientation of the target being observed
 - where on the surface the instrument was looking
- The text above uses past tense, but doing the same functions for future times to support mission planning is equally applicable



From Where do Ancillary Data Come?

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility

- From the spacecraft



- From the mission control center



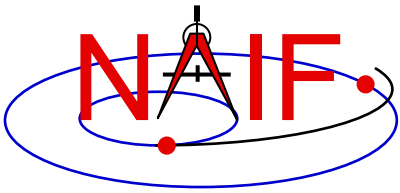
- From the spacecraft and instrument builders



- From science organizations



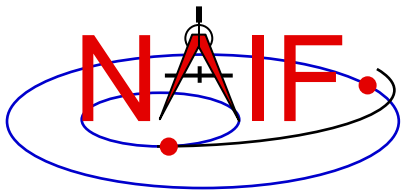
- SPICE is used to organize and package these data in a collection of stable file types—called "kernels"—used by scientists and engineers



Why Use SPICE?

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility

- **Knowing observation geometry and geometric events is an important element of:**
 - space mission design,
 - selection of observation opportunities,
 - analysis of the science data returned from the instruments,
 - mission engineering activities, and
 - preparation of science data archives.
- **Having a proven, extensive and reusable means for producing and using ancillary data reduces cost and risk, and can help scientists and engineers achieve more substantive, accurate and timely results.**



SPICE System Components

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility

Ancillary data files (“kernels”).....

1100
1010
0101

Software (SPICE Toolkit)



Documentation



Tutorials



Programming lessons

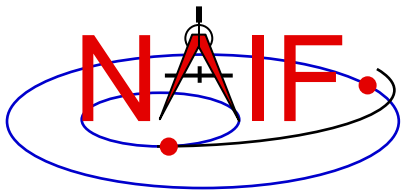


Training classes



User consultation





Origin of the SPICE Acronym*

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility

S

Spacecraft

P

Planet

I

Instrument

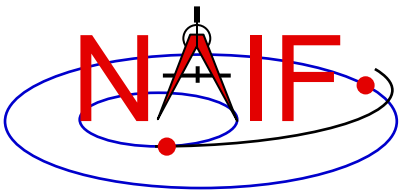
C

C-matrix (“Camera matrix”)

E

Events

* Coined by Dr. Hugh Kieffer, USGS Astrogeology Branch, Flagstaff AZ, circa 1985



SPICE Data Overview

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility

Logical Components

S
Spacecraft

P
Planet

I
Instrument

C
Camera-matrix

E
Events

Kernels

SPK

PcK

IK

CK

EK
ESP ESQ ENB

Others

FK
LSK
SCLK
DSK
MK

Contents

Space vehicle or target
body trajectory (ephemeris)

Target body size,
shape and orientation

Instrument field-of-view size,
shape and orientation

Orientation of space vehicle or
any articulating structure on it

Events information:
- Science Plan (ESP)
- Sequence of events (ESQ)
- Experimenter's Notebook (ENB)

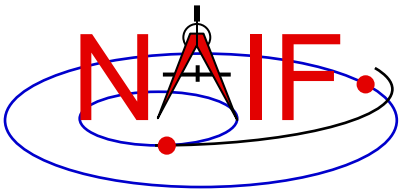
Reference frame specifications

Leapseconds tabulation

Spacecraft clock coefficients

Digital shape models

Meta-kernel



SPICE Kernels Details- 1

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility

SPK

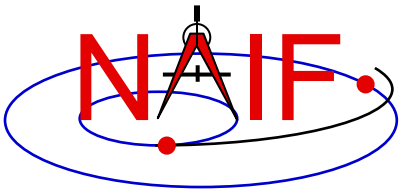
- Space vehicle ephemeris (trajectory)
- Planet, satellite, comet and asteroid ephemerides
- More generally, position of something relative to something else

PcK

- Planet, satellite, comet and asteroid orientations, sizes, shapes
 - See also **DSK**
- Possibly other similar “constants” such as parameters for gravitational model, atmospheric model or rings model

IK

- Instrument field-of-view size, shape, orientation
- Possibly additional information, such as internal timing



SPICE Kernels Details- 2

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility

CK

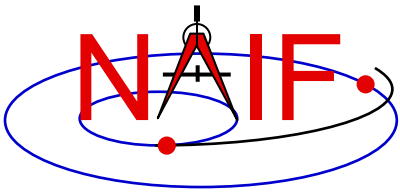
- Instrument platform (e.g. spacecraft) attitude
- More generally, orientation of something relative to a specified reference frame

EK

3 components

- “Events,” broken into three components:
 - ESP: Science observation plans
 - ESQ: Spacecraft & instrument commands
 - ENB: Experiment “notebooks” and ground data system logs

EK is not much used



SPICE System Data - 3

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility

FK

- **Frames**
 - Definitions of and specification of relationships between reference frames (coordinate systems)
 - Both “fixed” and “dynamic” frames are available

LSK

- **Leapseconds Tabulation**
 - Used for UTC <--> TDB (ET) time conversions

SCLK

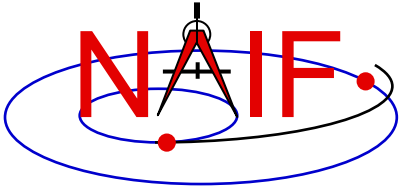
- **Spacecraft Clock Coefficients**
 - Used for SCLK <--> TDB (ET) time conversions

DSK

- **Shape models (tessellated plate model and digital elevation model*) (DSK)**

*DEM portion under development

UTC = Coordinated Universal Time TDB = Barycentric Dynamical Time ET = Ephemeris Time SCLK = Spacecraft Clock Time

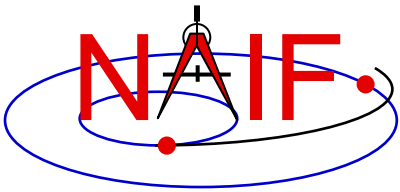


SPICE System Data - 4

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility



- **Meta-kernel**
 - A means to conveniently specify a collection of real kernels you would like to use together



SPICE Toolkit Software

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility

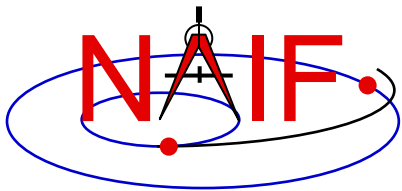
Contents

- **Library of APIs (modules)**
 - But typically just a few are used within a customer's program to compute quantities derived from SPICE data files
- **Programs**
 - SPICE data production
 - SPICE data management
- **Documentation**
 - Highly annotated source code
 - Technical Reference Manuals
 - User Guides

Versions

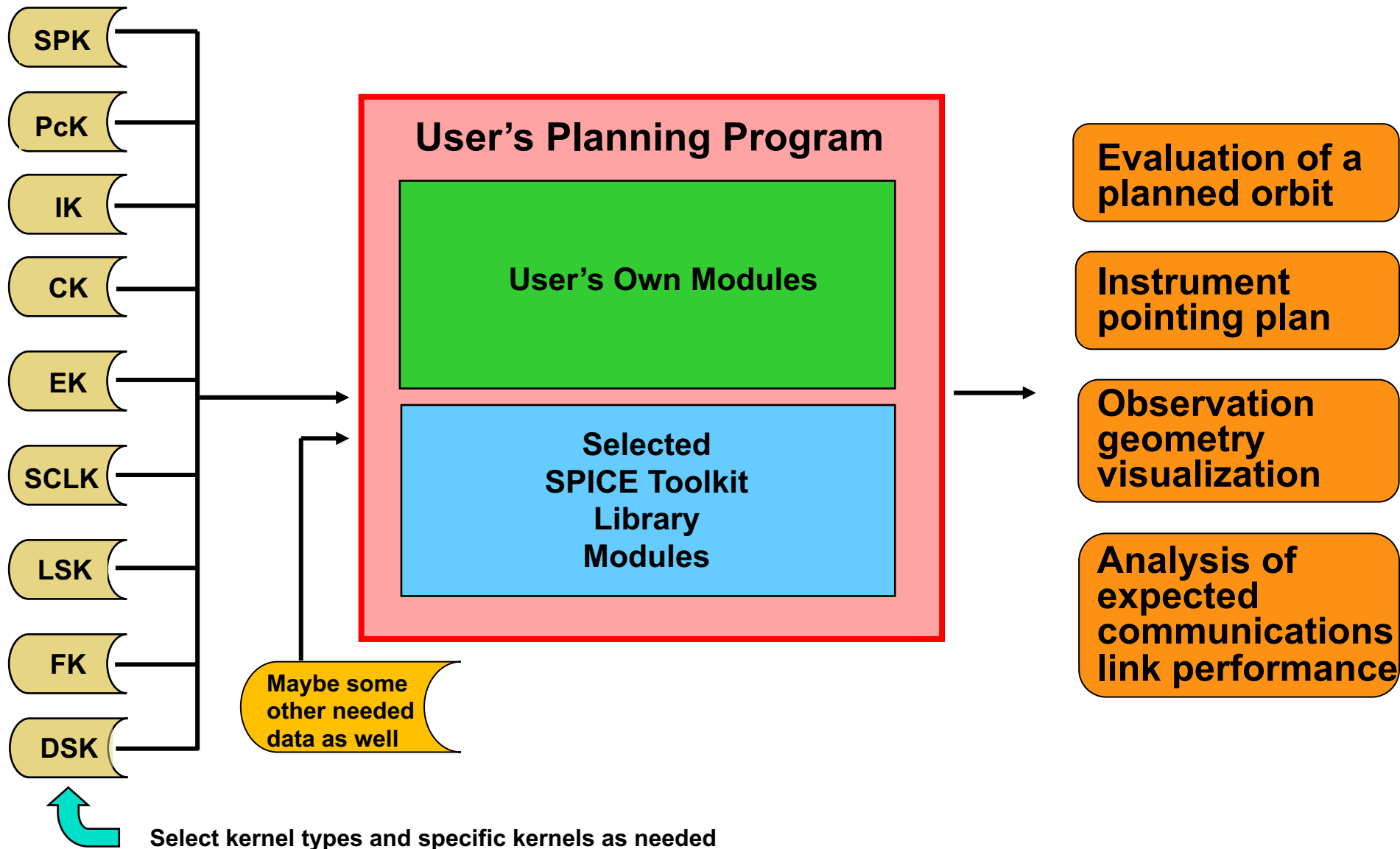
- **Five (ten) languages**
 - Fortran 77
 - C
 - IDL
 - MATLAB
 - Java Native Interface (JNI)
 - Python, Ruby, Swift, Julia, Unreal Engine (provided by 3rd parties)
- **Four platforms**
 - PC/Linux
 - PC/Windows
 - Sun/Solaris
 - Mac/OSX
- **Several compilers**
 - For the Fortran and C Toolkits

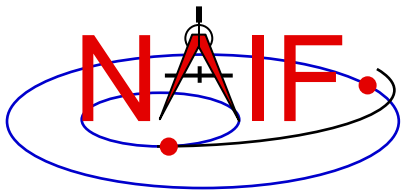
All combinations provided by NAIF are fully built and individually tested before being made available to customers



Using SPICE: Mission Planning Example

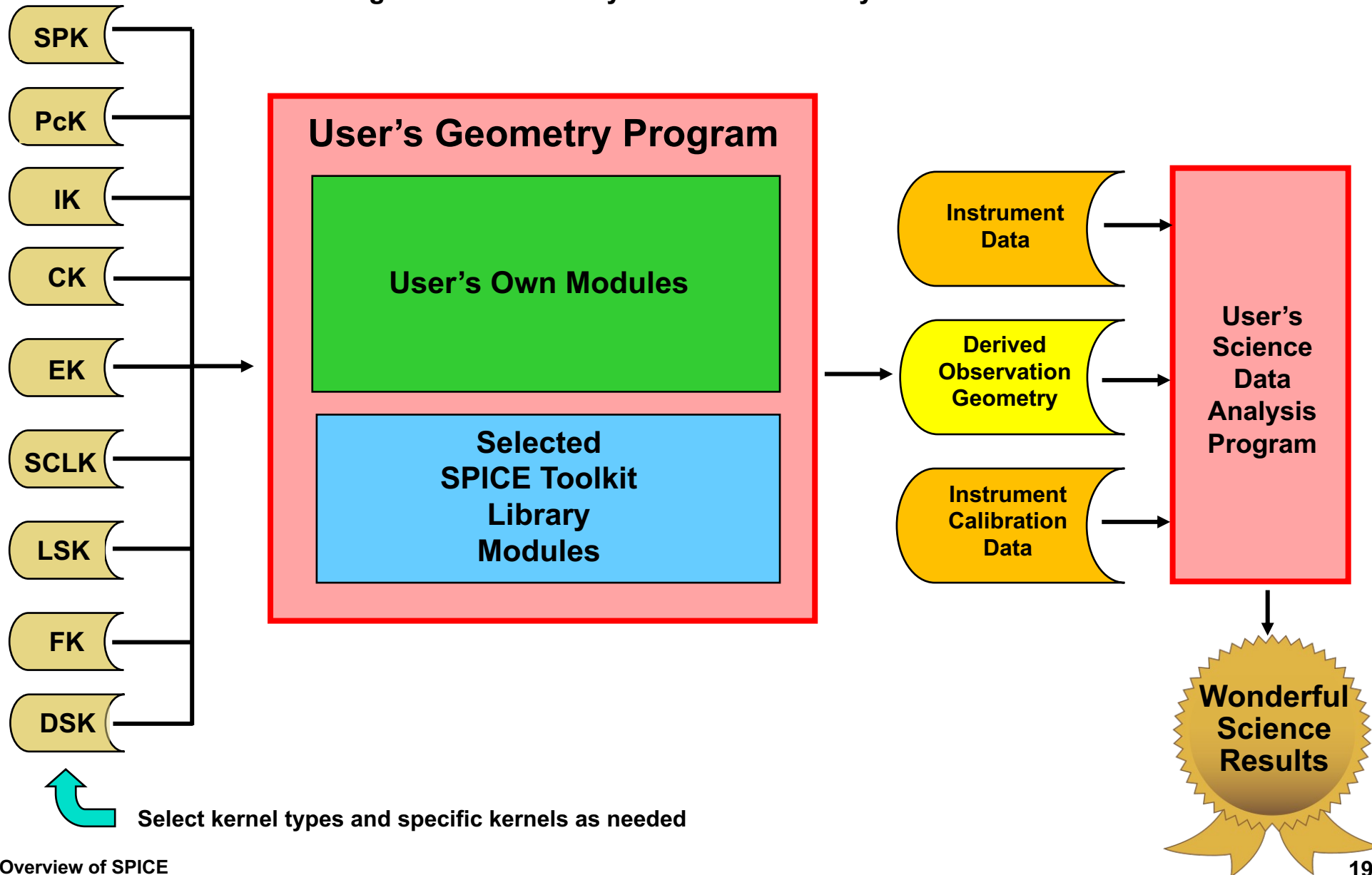
Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility

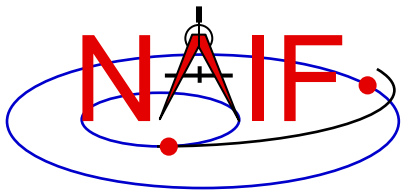




Using SPICE: Science Data Analysis Example

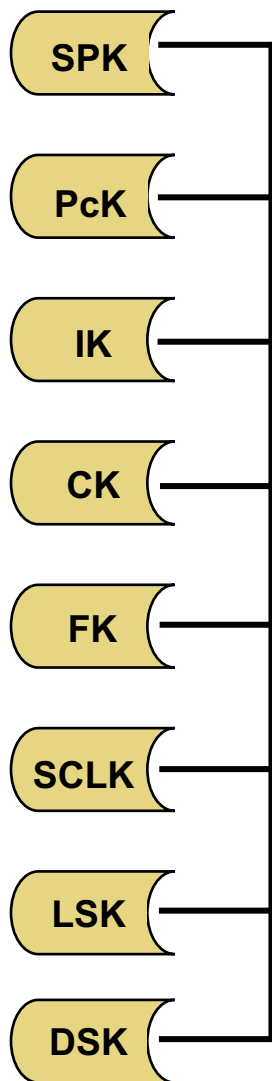
Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility



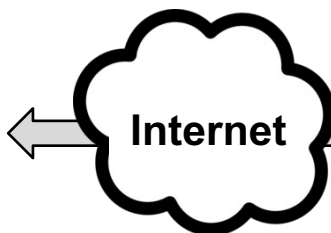
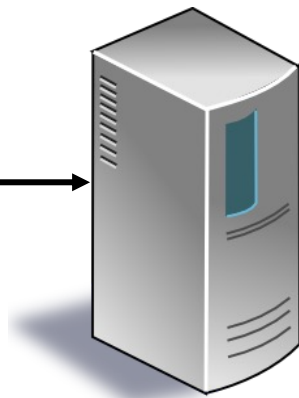


Using SPICE: Science Data Peer Review Example

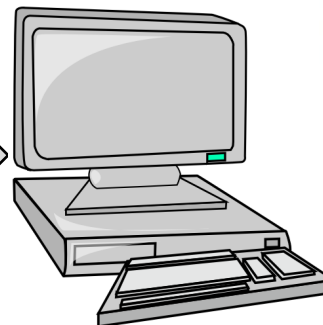
Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility



WebGeocalc Server



User's Computer
with Web Browser



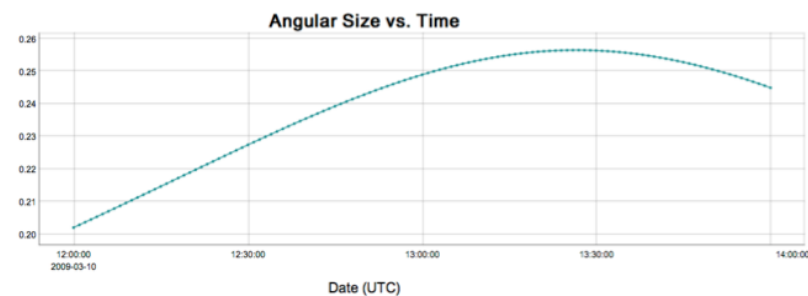
Tabular Results

Click a value to save it for a subsequent calculation.

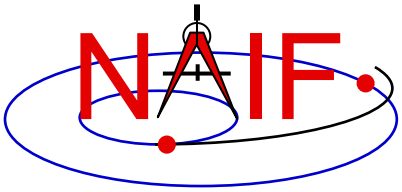
	UTC calendar date			Angular Size (deg)
1	2009-03-10	12:00:00.000000	UTC	0.20212256
2	2009-03-10	12:01:00.000000	UTC	0.20294481
3	2009-03-10	12:02:00.000000	UTC	0.20377024
4	2009-03-10	12:03:00.000000	UTC	0.20459871
5	2009-03-10	12:04:00.000000	UTC	0.20543007
6	2009-03-10	12:05:00.000000	UTC	0.20626418
7	2009-03-10	12:06:00.000000	UTC	0.20710088
8	2009-03-10	12:07:00.000000	UTC	0.20794000
9	2009-03-10	12:08:00.000000	UTC	0.20878138
10	2009-03-10	12:09:00.000000	UTC	0.20962484
11	2009-03-10	12:10:00.000000	UTC	0.21047019
12	2009-03-10	12:11:00.000000	UTC	0.21131725
13	2009-03-10	12:12:00.000000	UTC	0.21216581

Numeric Results

Graphic Results



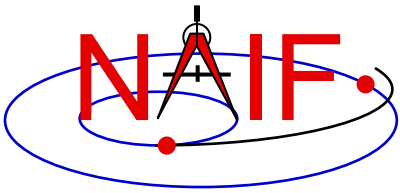
Angular size of Phobos as seen from the Mars rover "SPIRIT"



SPICE System Characteristics - 1

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility

- **SPICE Toolkit software is portable between computers**
- **New Toolkits are released irregularly, when enough new capability warrants it**
- **Code is very well tested before being released to users**
- **New Toolkits are always 100% backwards compatible**
- **Source code is provided, and is well documented**
- **Extensive user-oriented documentation is provided**
- **Software includes built-in exception handling**
 - Catches most invalid inputs

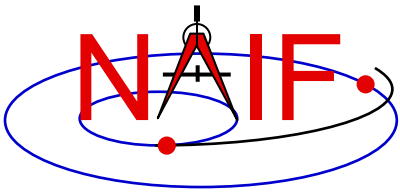


SPICE System Characteristics - 2

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility

- **All numeric computations are double precision**
- **Kernel files are portable between computers**
- **Kernel files are separable**
 - Use only those you need for a particular application
- **SPICE kernels and software are free of licensing and U.S. ITAR restrictions**
 - Everyone is free to use SPICE
- **No cost to individual end users**

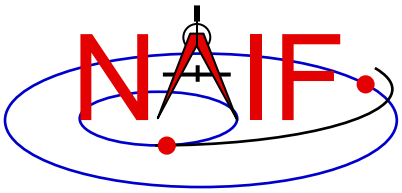




Supported Environments

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility

- **The SPICE Toolkit has been ported to many popular “environments”**
 - Each environment is characterized by...
 - » Language
 - » Hardware type (platform)
 - » Operating System
 - » Compiler (where applicable)
 - » Selected compilation options (32-bit or 64-bit)
- **NAIF provides separate, ready-built SPICE Toolkit packages for each supported environment**
 - If you need to port the Toolkit to a new environment yourself, consult with NAIF staff first



What “Vehicle” Types Can Be Supported?

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility

- **Cruise/Flyby**

- Remote sensing
- In-situ measurement
- Instrument calibration

- **Orbiters**

- Remote sensing
- In-situ measurement
- Communications relay

- **Balloons***

- Remote sensing
- In-situ measurements

- **Landers**

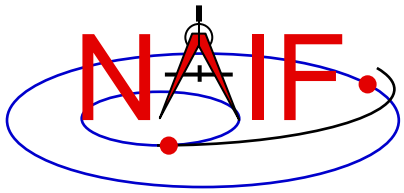
- Remote sensing
- In-situ measurements
- Rover or balloon relay

- **Rovers**

- Remote sensing
- In-situ sensing
- Local terrain characterization

- **Terrestrial applications**

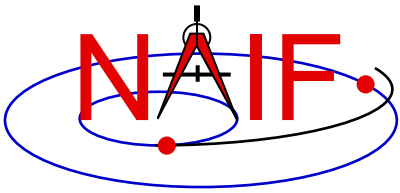
- Ephemerides for telescopes
- Radiometric tracking & comm
- Optical tracking & comm



More Than Just Planetary Science

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility

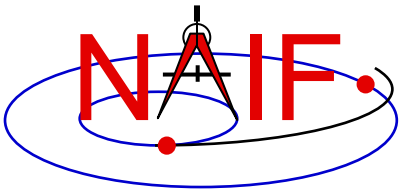
- **Today SPICE is used well beyond just planetary science missions.**
 - Heliophysics
 - Earth science
 - Observations from terrestrial observatories
 - Space technology demos
 - Planetariums
 - Probably still more...?



History

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility

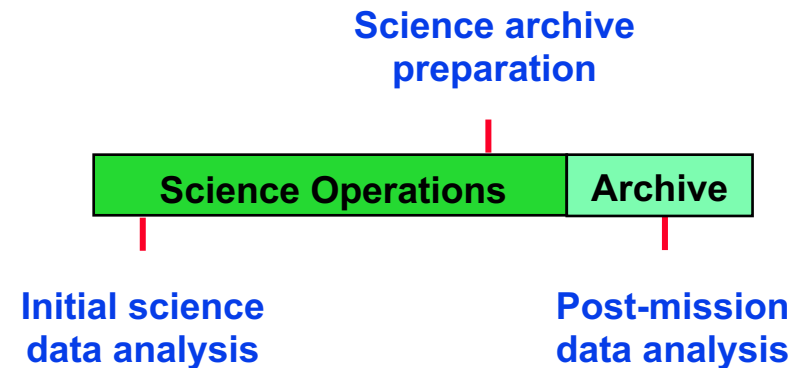
- **A SPICE precursor was initiated in 1984 as part of a major initiative to improve archiving and distribution of space science data in all NASA disciplines**
- **Responsibility for leading SPICE development was assigned to the newly-created Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility (NAIF), located at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory**
- **Today's SPICE system dates from about 1991**

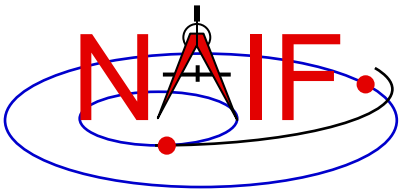


Original Purpose for SPICE

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility

- The original focus of SPICE was on ancillary data and associated software needed by planetary scientists for:
 - science data analysis, both during and after the mission operations
 - science archive preparation

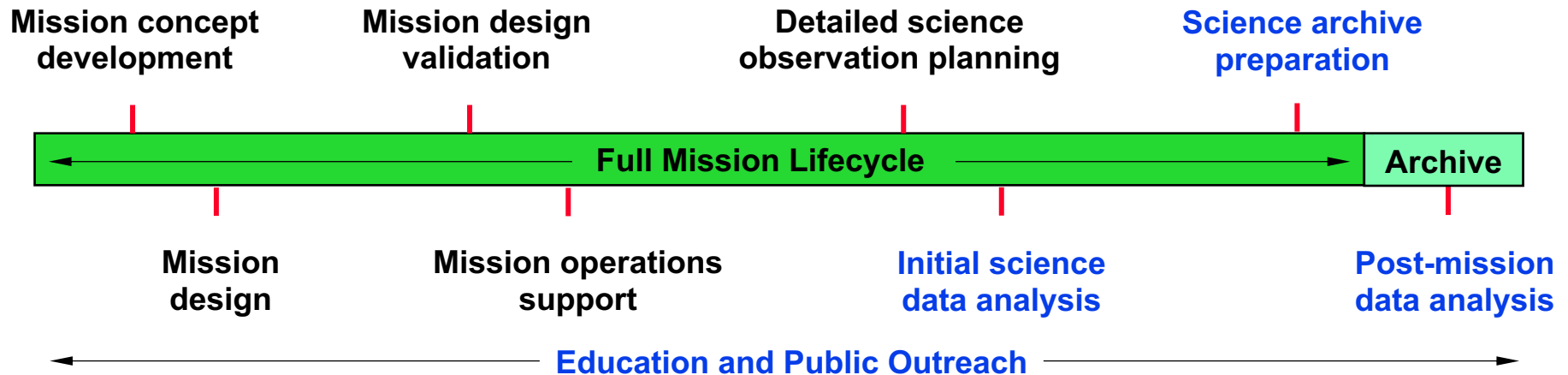


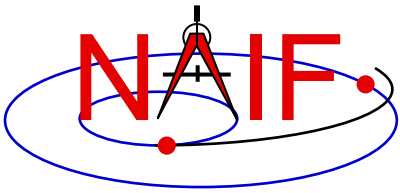


Large Breadth of Use

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility

- The original focus of SPICE was on ancillary data and associated software needed by planetary scientists for:
 - science data analysis, both during and after the mission operations
 - science archive preparation
- The scope of SPICE usage has grown to cover the full mission lifecycle.
- Also education and public outreach.

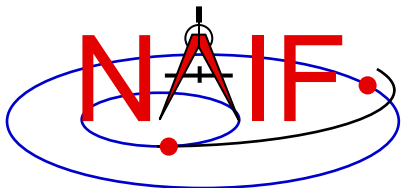




Ancillary Data Archives

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility

- **SPICE is the U.S. Planetary Data System's recommendation for archiving ancillary data**
- **Use of SPICE is recommended by the International Planetary Data Alliance**
- **SPICE data for European planetary missions are archived in ESA's Planetary Science Archive**
 - **Some of these data are also mirrored on the NAIF server**
- **SPICE data for some Japanese, Indian and Russian missions may be available from their local archives**

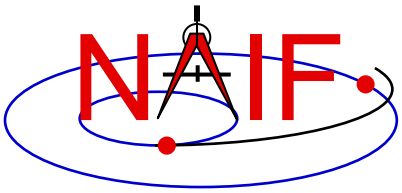


SPICE Users

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility

Data Restorations	Selected Past Users	Current Users
Apollo 15, 16 [L]	Magellan [L]	Mars Odyssey
Mariner 2 [L]	Clementine (NRL)	Parker Solar Probe
Mariner 6 [L]	Mars Pathfinder	Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter
Mariner 7 [L]	NEAR	Hubble Space Telescope [S][L]
Mariner 9 [L]	Deep Space 1	James Webb Space Telescope [S][L]
Mariner 10 [L]	Galileo	Lunar Gateway
Viking Orbiters [L]	Genesis	Dragonfly
Viking Landers [L]	Deep Impact	MAVEN
Pioneer 10/11/12 [L]	Stardust/NEXT	SMAP (Earth Science)
Haley armada [L]	Mars Global Surveyor	OSIRIS REx
Phobos 2 [L] (RSA)	Phoenix	InSight
Ulysses [L]	EPOXI	Mars 2020
Voyagers [L]	GRAIL	Europa Clipper
Lunar Orbiter [L]	DAWN	NISAR (NASA and ISRO)
Helios 1,2 [L]	Cassini Orbiter	Psyche
Huygens Probe (ESA) [L]	Mars Exploration Rover	TESS
	Mars Express (ESA)	LunaH-Map (Arizona State)
	Venus Express (ESA)	Lunar IceCube (Moorehead State)
	Rosetta (ESA)	GOLD (LASP, UCF) (Earth Science) [L]
	Mars 96 (RSA)	Emirates Mars Mission (UAE via LASP)
	Phobos Sample Return (RSA)	Armadillo (CubeSat, by UT)
	Messenger	ExoMars RSP (ESA, RSA)
	Chandrayaan-1 (ISRO)	Proba-3 (ESA)
	Hayabusa (JAXA)	Solar Orbiter (ESA)
	Kaguya (JAXA)	Hera (ESA)
	LCROSS	EnVision (ESA)
	LADEE	Gaia (ESA)
	Spitzer Space Telescope	INTEGRAL (ESA)
	STEREO	GEO satellites (EUMETSAT) [L]
	Kepler	MMX (JAXA)
	ISO [S] (ESA)	SLIM (JAXA)
	Smart-1 (ESA)	Aditya-L1 (ISRO)
		MOM (ISRO)
		Chandrayan-2 (ISRO)
		Altius (Belgian earth science satellite)
		Spectrum-RG (RSA)

- NAIF had, has, or will have project-supplied funding to support mission operations, consultation for flight team members, and SPICE data archive preparation.
- NAIF had, has, or will have NASA funding to support a foreign partner in SPICE deployment and archive review, and to consult with flight team SPICE users.
- NAIF had, has, or will have token funding to consult with kernel producers.
- NAIF had or has PDS authorization and funding to consult on assembly of a SPICE PDS archive.
- NAIF had performed data restoration under PDS funding.
- Missions that used, use, or will be using SPICE without any help from NAIF.



Building Blocks for Your Applications

Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility

The “SPICE” observation geometry system can serve as a set of building blocks for constructing tools supporting multi-mission, international space exploration programs.

